

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added or canceled.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are currently being amended.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application.

Request of Entry of After-Final Amendment and Reply:

It is respectfully requested that this after-final amendment and reply be considered and entered, since it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Claims Rejection:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,469 to Muramatsu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,033 to Morikawa. This rejection is traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Independent claims 1 and 5 have each been amended to recite a setting means for setting directions of scanning of the first and second originals to one of an automatic of a horizontally positioned original having a transverse main scan direction, an automatic of a vertically positioned original having a longitudinal main scan direction, a portrait of a horizontally positioned original having a transverse main scan direction, a landscape of a vertically positioned original having a longitudinal main scan direction, a landscape of a horizontally

positioned original having a transverse main scan direction, and a portrait of a vertically positioned original having a longitudinal main scan direction. Independent claims 1 and 5 have also been amended to recite third through sixth reading means, with the specific features as recited in the independent claims. Neither Muramatsu nor Morikawa teaches or suggests the features recited in these third through sixth reading means, in combination with the other features recited in those claims.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 5, along with their respective dependent claims, are patentable over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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